

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 21 with the following rewritten paragraph:

To describe this concretely, as illustrated in Fig. 3, a diameter of a light beam 31 that is irradiated on a bar code is originally set to be smaller than a basic distance between bars (see (a) in Fig. 3). This enables to acquire substantial reflected light, thereby acquiring sufficient value of an edge signal. However, if there is a thick black bar (see (b) in Fig. 3) or a thick white bar, substantial reflected light is not acquired. Therefore, a sufficient value of the edge signal is not acquired. This results in errors in reading the white and black bars of the bar code.